Recommendation for 8 per cent excise duty for textile sector

2570. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the working group on Textiles and Jute Industry has recommended a uniform 8 per cent excise duty for the entire textile sector for next five years as a special dispensation;

(b) If so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) Whether the total textile imports during the last fiscal year has increased substantially, but the exports were not increasing at the same rate; and

(d) If so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Working Group on Textile and Jute Industry for 10th Five Year Plan (2002—07) has recommended a number of measures to promote and develop the Indian Textile Industry for consideration of the Planning Commission. One of them is to broaden the tax net to link all states of textile production i.e. from fiber to the fabric stage by reducing the excise duty structure to a uniform level of 8 per cent.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. During the last fiscal year 2000-2001, the total textile exports, in value terms, registered a rise of 27.5 per cent over the previous year as against a decline of 25.2 per cent in total textile imports, in value terms, for the same period.

Development of Handlooms and Handicrafts in Nagaland

2571. SHRI C. APOK JAMIR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policy being implemented by Government in the State of Nagaland for development of handloom and handicraft sector;

(b) whether any special policy has been taken up for development